

**Nguyen Dinh Thang, PhD**, left Vietnam with his family as a boat person in 1978 and arrived in the United States in 1979 after seven months in a refugee camp in Malaysia. He graduated with a PhD in Mechanical Engineering in 1986 and worked for 15 years at a research lab of the U.S. Navy. For the past 35 years he has been involved in community services, refugee protection and human rights advocacy in the United States and Asia. Under his leadership, BPSOS has grown into an international organization with operations in 14 locations in the United States and Asia. In 2008 he co-founded Coalition to Abolish Modern-day Slavery in Asia (CAMSA), which has so far rescued and/or assisted over five thousand victims of labor and sex trafficking. He travels extensively to Asia and closely monitors the human rights conditions in Vietnam. In 2011 he received, on behalf of BPSOS and CAMSA, the Asia Human Rights and Democracy Award from Taiwan President and Speaker of the House.